

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 13th May 1905.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 6th May has the following :—

The successes of Japan.

The one reason why we Indians rejoice at the successes of Japan in the present struggle in the Far East is that Japan is an oriental power. It is the feeling that the pulsations of a new life have again begun to be felt in the East that causes us satisfaction. But at the same time, we must not forget that if as a result of the present war the Russian bear is seriously crippled, then there will be no end to our harassment at the hands of the English lion. The more the Yellow Peril increases among the English, the more will the shoe peril increase among us. Letting alone the Congresses and the Conferences, are we not getting any evidence of the manner in which the blotting-paper is sucking up the ink? Can we not see that a blow is about to be struck at the root of our national unity? Who can say that there can be no connexion as cause and effect between the successes of Japan and the worsening of our hard lot?

Distinction between the coloured and the white.

2. Seeing that even the Transvaal, conquered only the other day, is going to have self-Government, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 6th May observes that, although a hundred and fifty years have elapsed since the English have become rulers of this country, the number of official members in the Viceregal Council is still in excess of that elected by the people. This is the case not because the Indians are less educated and intelligent or that they are not fit to sit in the Viceregal Council, but because they are counted among the coloured people. The colour question has also entered into the formation of the Transvaal Legislative Assembly; for there, too, the voting power has been given to the whites only; in other words, the aboriginal inhabitants of the Transvaal, as well as the domiciled Indians, are not to have the same rights as the whites, as if they were not British subjects.

3. The same paper notices the ambiguous character of the information as hitherto communicated, both in England and Afghanistan, as regards the terms of the new treaty with the Amir of Kabul.

The Kabul Mission.

4. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 8th May says:—

The Kabul Mission.

The able and dignified manner in which the present Amir of Afghanistan received the Kabul Mission augurs well for the future of his State. There was no unpleasantness on the part either of the Amir or of the members of the Mission. The present silence of the English press and the British public, which made so much of the Mission before it started for Kabul, has certainly a meaning as regards the result, although some newspapers note that the result will be published after the papers have been seen by the Secretary of State.

The fact, however, appears to be that the Mission has not been able to achieve anything beyond obtaining the signature of the present Amir to the agreement entered into by the late Amir with the British Government. Moreover, the Amir increased his fighting strength not only on the Russian, but also on the Indian, frontiers in order to meet any emergency that might arise on account of the Government of India taking any offensive measures against Afghanistan.

5. What is the harm, asks the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 8th May, in publishing the papers concerning the Kabul Mission? Perhaps the English have been discom-

The Kabul Mission.

fited in this affair, and hence the secrecy which Government is maintaining about it.

6. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 8th May says that, owing to the Kaiser's recent visit to Fez,

The Kaiser's visit to Morocco.

the question of Morocco has come again to the fore. It seems that it will gradually result in a great hostility between France and Germany, and that, in that case, England, for some reasons which need not be mentioned here, cannot remain neutral. The alarm created in England and France on account of the conduct of Germany in Morocco speaks for the importance of the question which is likely to produce a great disturbance.

BASUMATI,
May 6th, 1905.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 6th, 1905.

BHARAT MITRA.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL MATEEN
May 8th, 1905

SANDHYA,
May 8th, 1905.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL MATEEN,
May 8th, 1905.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

MAVBHUM,
2nd May, 1905.

7. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 2nd May complains that the local *parawallas* sleep at night instead of being on watch at their beats, and this neglect of patrolling duties on their part is responsible for an increase in the number of thefts in the town.

HITAVADI,
May 5th, 1905.

8. Mr. Tahal Ram, says the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May, has been allowed to lecture again in the College Square Park, Calcutta. It remains to be seen what the police will do now. Some such order as that Christian missionaries will be allowed to lecture in the Park, but not Mr. Tahal Ram, will perhaps satisfy the police.

BANGAVASI,
May 6th, 1905.

9. Referring to the allegation corroborated by a recent case and published in the *Bankura Darpan* newspaper that cooly-recruiters sometimes administer a certain poison to their victims which induces senselessness, in which condition the unfortunate persons are sent away as coolies to the Assam tea-gardens, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May calls upon the authorities to make enquiries into the allegation, which is undoubtedly of a very serious character.

BANGAVASI.

10. The same paper cites a case of police oppression from the *Burdwan Sanjivani* newspaper in which a police constable of the Birhatta outpost in Burdwan sent up a villager falsely charging him with committing nuisance on the road, and says that though the accused man was acquitted by the Honorary Magistrate, yet there is none to punish the offending constable.

HITAVARTA,
May 7th, 1905.

11. In noticing the disturbance created by the police in the Kotwali of Lahore on May last during the municipal elections, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 7th May observes that if the police had remembered what their duty was, instead of showing their authority, peace would have been soon restored, but how could they then show what authority and power they were possessed of?

At the Delhi Gate, where the election of the Musalmans was going on, the police wanted to create a similar disturbance, but desisted, seeing the attitude of the Musalmans who were determined not to put up with their high-handedness. These incidents go to show that the police create disturbances where there are none. If the Hindus, following the example of the Musalmans, had risen in a body against the police, perhaps there would have been no disturbance in the Kotwali also. If the authorities fail to take serious notice of the misconduct of the police, should we then understand that the Musalmans acted lawfully in resisting the police? And do the authorities wish that unless people behave similarly on similar occasions they must suffer at the hands of the police?

DCCA PRAKAS,
May 7th, 1905.

12. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 7th May draws the attention of the local District Magistrate to the following case, the locale of which is the Vikrampur pargana of Dacca. It appears that one Parikshit, a *Kaibarta* by caste and a resident of village Fekunasha, had from childhood been intimate with another *Kaibarta* of the adjoining village of Natessur, Falaina by name. Both are young men of about the same age (between 25 and 30). About a year ago, one day these two young men went a-fishing, and when they returned they were found to be carrying two earthen pitchers. They gave out that *Manasadevi* had appeared to them in a dream and commanded them to marry each other and to live as husband and wife and, besides, to consecrate these two pitchers and pay worship to them. Since then the two have been living in one house. The story that they had a divine vision has invested them with a reputation for sanctity and has consequently been enough to draw large crowds of pilgrims to their house as visitors. And as Falaina now dresses as a woman and outwardly imitates all the

peculiarities of that sex, the local young women of the *Jalia* caste mix with him with all the familiarity with which they would mix with one of their own sex.

13. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th May draws attention to the depredations committed by tigers and bears in the jungle to the north of the village of Manikbazar, in the Jairampur outpost in Bankura.

BANKURA DARPAN,
May 8th, 1905.

Depredations by wild beasts in a village in Bankura.

14. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May writes:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1905.

An allegation against a police Daroga in Hooghly.

A correspondent writes to us from village Amalhara in Hooghly to say that a cow belonging to one Gones Chandra Karmakar of that village was some time ago missed from the fields where it had been left to graze. Enquiry revealed the fact that the animal was in the house of Bidhu Bhusan Chakrabarti, Daroga of the Krishnagar thana. When Gones Karmakar demanded his animal back, the Daroga put him off, saying that an inquiry as to whether he was the real owner was previously necessary. Gones thereupon produced a chaukidar named Badal Dule who identified the cow as Gones's and, later on, further persuaded Umās Chandra Chatterji, Collecting Panchayat of Rahimpur, to bear witness to the same effect. But the Daroga still proved obdurate. The protection of the nearest Magistrate was then sought by Gones, and when called on by him to explain his conduct, the Daroga submitted that the cow was an unclaimed one, and as such it had been kept in the custody of the police. Anyhow, on the 19th April last, Gones was satisfactorily proved in Court to be the owner of the animal. But the strange thing is that he is still waiting for the Daroga to make over his property to him. We understand the cow has been kept in the private premises of the Daroga who is appropriating its milk. What then becomes of the plea of its having been kept in the custody of the police? Why was it not kept in the pound?

15. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th May, noticing a rumour that it is under consideration by Government to transfer the villages of Gosain Durgapur, Magura, etc., in Nadia from the jurisdiction of the Kushtia thana to that of a new thana which is intended to be opened at Harinarayanpur, points out the superior accessibility from these villages of the present thana to the proposed one. It is said that there is a good road through these villages to Halsa station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, whence Kushtia is an easy journey by rail. In fact, for ten pice Kushtia might be visited four times in 24 hours from these villages. As against this easy access of Kushtia, Harinarayanpur, it is urged, is six miles from these two villages, with no other means of communication than a zig-zag pathway along the ridges which divide the fields. The suggestion is made that if the villages in question are to be transferred from Kushtia at all, they should be placed under the Alamdanga thana.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 9th, 1905.

16. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th May, writing from village Dupchanchia in district Bogra, complains that an increase in crime has become lately noticeable in that locality, even though since January last it has been made the seat of a thana instead of as before, merely an outpost. Dacoites and thefts have become events of constant occurrence. Reference is specially made to the case of a dacoity which was committed in the house of one Kripa Boistab of this village, a woman in the keeping of a local rich man, on the night of the 8th March last, when property of the value of about Rs. 2,000 was stolen. Other thefts also have occurred since, and gangs of *budmashes* are forcing houses and terrorising the inmates.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 10th, 1905.

17. The same paper writes:—

The Police Commission. The Police Commission was appointed with the object of removing the evils which now exist in connexion with that Department. But the report which the Commission has issued as the result of its varied inquiries, far from being in favour of the interests of the natives, is distinctly adverse to them. As a result of this report, raw youths from England will be placed in charge of the District Police. These men will have no acquaintance with the conditions of Indian life, will

DAILY HITAVADI

be ignorant even of the Indian languages, and yet Government does not hesitate to place them in such seriously responsible positions. It would be hard to calculate the amount of harassment to which we are to be subjected on account of the increase in the number of worthless Englishmen who can find no employment at home. Indians are being kept out of their just rights and the public service is being filled with Europeans, all the while that the authorities are making professions about the country's money being devoted to the support of natives as much as possible and to the employment of as small a number of Europeans as possible.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 2nd, 1905.

18. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 2nd May reports that on the 25th April last, Mr. Monmotho Kristo Deb, Joint-Magistrate of Mymensingh, had a charge brought against him in his own Court of assaulting a boy-servant of his, named Aftabuddin. The Joint-Magistrate after taking the complainant's evidence wrote down his own evidence and then dismissed the charge under section 203, Indian Penal Code. He further wished to commit Aftab under section 193, Indian Penal Code, and had him kept in *hajat* for a night accordingly, but the services of a pleader whom Aftab engaged made him change his mind later on.

PRATIJNA,
May 3rd, 1905.

19. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May rejoices at the victory of Mr. Tahal Ram in the injunction case against him in the Calcutta Police Court, and says:—
We heartily thank God for protecting Mr. Tahal Ram, whom He has sent amongst us.

HITAVARTA,
May 7th, 1905.

20. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 7th May is glad to learn that the Presidency Magistrate, Mr. Kingsford, has revoked the notice forbidding Mr. Tahal Ram to deliver open-air speeches in the College Square. It remains to be seen what further steps are taken by the police to prevent Mr. Tahal Ram from delivering speeches in the College Square.

SANJIVANI,
May 4th, 1905.

21. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 4th May writes:—
One of the decisions of the secret Darjeeling Conference has been made public, and it alone has been enough to create quite a feeling of consternation in the public mind. It seems as if it has become the principal aim of our present-day rulers to establish a system of strong government in this country. The cardinal aim of this new policy seems to be that all, from the Head of the Provincial Administration to the Munsifs and Deputies, should be bound by the same chains and should carry out the mandates of one person—the Lieutenant-Governor obeying the behest of the Viceroy, the Divisional Commissioner that of the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Commissioner being the head of all civil and criminal *hakims* in his jurisdiction. That anybody should judge and act independently is not to be tolerated. The civil judiciary hitherto used to discharge their duties with a large measure of independence, often repressing with severity miscarriage of justice by the subordinate criminal judiciary, and rescuing innocent men from the hands of convicting Magistrates. But all that is to be changed. The independence of the civil judiciary in Bengal seems to be threatened with extinction.

The circular on this question which we published in our previous issue (see paragraph 26 of Report on Native Papers for the week ending the 29th April 1905), seems just like a pill of quinine with an outside coating of sugar. There appears on the face of it a good many satisfactory features (such, for example, as the instructions to Commissioners to put down the vagaries of Magistrates), but the gall which is at the core of it cannot by any means be kept concealed. If the Commissioners are to have authority over the Judges in every matter except those relating strictly to the discharge of their official duties, it is sure to be found that in practice the Judges when trying cases will keep an eye to the Commissioners' approval or disapproval.

There can be no doubt that this decision of the Conference is fraught with mischievous results. It is a matter of great regret that the High Court, instead of fighting for the independence of the mufassal District Judges, has agreed to subordinate them to the Divisional Commissioners. It is a blow struck at the root of independent and impartial justice in Bengal.

It is not to Bengal alone that this attempt to subordinate the judiciary to the executive is confined. The recent appointment of a Civilian as Chief Judge of the Chief Court of Burma has caused some alarm in the public mind. The law requires that two out of the four Judges of this Court should ordinarily be Barristers of five years' standing. But the new Chief Judge is only nominally a Barrister, he being a member of the Civil Service who has never practised at the Bar. The predominance of the civilian element and a system of strong government—these seem to be the principal aims which it is the policy of Lord Curzon's Government to achieve. Barrister-Judges usually try to act impartially without any eye to pleasing the executive; hence the natural disfavour with which they are regarded by Government.

We can clearly see what it is that Government aims at in all this. It is become an urgent necessity now for the political Associations in the country to consider this question with care, and to let Government realize the feeling of alarm which its policy has been responsible for creating.

It is the duty of the District Judges also to protest against the policy enunciated in Mr. Carlyle's Circular, for the Magistrate belongs to the same branch of service as the Commissioner, and as such will naturally have the latter's support in any dispute between him and the Judges, who will thus come off second best in all cases. The Judges will therefore be compelled to stand in awe of the Magistrates. But when that day comes, will not justice have really fled from Bengal?

22. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th May learns from the Silchar newspaper that

Mukhtars' strike at Maulavi Bazar, Sylhet.

recently Mr. Omani, the Subdivisional Magistrate of Maulavi Bazar, in the Sylhet district, insulted two mukhtars in his Court by ordering them to walk out of it without any fault on their part. All the mukhtars of the Bar have struck at this and stopped going to his Court.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
May 4th, 1905.

23. The same paper refers to a number of cases, such as the case of murder against Babu Taranath Chaudhuri, a zamindar of Rajshahi; the case against Babu

Judicial vagaries.

Gopinath of Ranchi; the case brought by Bipin Behari Ghosh, pleader, against Babu B. D. Bose, the Deputy Magistrate of Malda, and the Hooghly Shout case, as instances of judicial vagaries. These officers, whose high vocation is to administer justice, are showing a tendency to turn out oppressors themselves. Too many of them are now making themselves notorious by their hauteur and want of a proper sense of responsibility. They interfere with the judicial work of their subordinates, make common cause with the police to oppress people, make conviction their motto, indulge in all sorts of judicial vagaries, abuse their powers for the sake of self-interest, ill-treat parties and pleaders, and do not shrink from unjustly persecuting even men of high respectability. Mr. Carlyle's circular may check their social vagaries, but what are the authorities doing to cure the evils enumerated above?

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA.

24. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May writes as follows:—

Two European offenders acquitted.

Some time ago an Assistant Superintendent of Police named Mr. Griffiths, in the Province of Sind, shot a native dead in a hunting excursion. The *sahib* was acquitted on the ground that the shot was accidental. Again, a soldier named Whitehead, attached to the Shahjahanpur Arsenal, recently went out shooting without permission and killed a native. This man also has been acquitted by the Magistrate of the district. It may be that neither of these white men was guilty of the offence of murder, but were they not guilty of gross carelessness? Was it not an offence on the part of Whitehead to go out shooting without permission? If two natives had killed two Europeans under similar circumstances, would they have been allowed to escape scot-free?

HITAVADI,
May 5th, 1905.

BASUMATI,
May 6th 1905.

25. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 6th May notices a statement from the columns of the *Advocate of Assam* that the vakils and mukhtars practising in the Court of Mr. Rogers, a Magistrate of Gauhati, have combined in a resolution not to appear before him, so long as he does not apologize for the rude behaviour of which he is guilty in his treatment of them, and appeals to the Chief Commissioner of Assam to intervene and end the deadlock, which is, causing great public inconvenience.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 6th, 1905.

26. In reviewing the judgement Mr. Swan, Joint-Magistrate of Alipur, in the recent case between Captain Ronayne and certain employes of the Tramways Company, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May writes:—

The recent case of Captain Ronayne *versus* certain employes of the Calcutta Tramways Company. What better example can we have of a *kazi's* trial? How can the faith of the public in British Courts of justice continue to exist after judgments like this? It is really a matter of deep regret that the Government, though it is conscious that the chances of getting justice in a case between a European and an Indian are getting thinner day by day, still persists in an attitude of indifference and inaction. Captain Ronayne himself admits that he struck the conductor, Hosain Raza, when the latter demanded his fare from him; still in spite of this confession of guilt on the part of the Captain, the conductor is held guilty by the Court. Is this not a case of serious injustice?

Captain Ronayne alleges that he struck the first blow and that the conductor returned the blow with a brass rod. The Captain considers this blow was a severe one, but was not able to show any marks of injury on his person. Even admitting that the conductor did strike a blow as alleged, considering that the blow was such a light one, does it not indicate extreme barbarity to pass a sentence of 15 days' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 15? Had this case been one between two natives, would the Magistrate have passed such a severe sentence! It is our impression that if the complainant in the present case had not been a European, the trying Magistrate would have let the defendant go scot-free on the plea of self-defence.

The question now is, which of the two versions given respectively by Captain Ronayne and Hosain Raza is the correct one? Of the Captain's version the Court itself declares that there are considerable variations in his story as to what happened, *i.e.*, that his story does not accord with the facts as they really occurred. Of Hosain Raza's version, however, no such opinion is expressed by the Court. Then, again, Captain Ronayne was not able to produce one independent witness to support his version of the facts. The Magistrate himself could not deny that the Captain attempted to minimise the severe nature of the blow which he aimed at Hosain Raza.

The fact is that the Captain assaulted the conductor because the latter threatened to hand him over to the police. This statement of the conductor's does not seem at all improbable. On the other hand, we can never consider it probable that a petty conductor should suddenly strike and repeatedly strike an army Captain. From whatever side we may view the case, we can never bring ourselves to believe conductor Hosain Raza guilty. It may be that much of what the Captain said was true, but judging only from such evidence as was produced at the trial, the conductor must be said to have been punished for no offence, or at least too severely punished for a light offence. Partiality for men of his own race blinded the trying Magistrate and thus prevented him from considering the case calmly in all its aspects.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 6th, 1905.

27. Commenting upon the judgement delivered by the Joint-Magistrate of Alipur in the case of Captain Ronayne *versus* some Tramway employes, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 6th May says that this perverse judgement has surprised everybody. But such judgments are becoming a rule where the case is between a European and a native. Judgments like these encourage Europeans like Captain Ronayne to commit acts of violence on poor helpless natives. An appeal against this decision, however, has been preferred to the District and Sessions Judge.

28. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 6th May prays that Mr. Justice Mukerjee's tenure of office as Additional Judge for a year, which is about to expire, may be made permanent.

BASUMATI,
May 6th, 1905.

29. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May notices the following allegation against Mr. Lyall, Deputy Commissioner of Palamau:—It is said that at a recent auction-sale under Mr. Lyall's superintendence, Indra Narayan Singh and Syed Abdul Rashid were

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1905.

An allegation against Mr. Lyall,
Deputy Commissioner of Palamau.

bidding against each other in regard to a particular piece of property. Indra Narain made a bid for Rs. 2,825, to which Abdul Rashid replied by a bid for Rs. 2,900. But Mr. Lyall paid no heed to Abdul Rashid's bid, and knocked down the property in question in favour of Indra Narain. Abdul Rashid thereupon put up a petition praying that the bid might be closed in his favour, as he had made the highest offer. Mr. Lyall is also said to have refused the request which was preferred before him by Abdul Rashid for time to appeal to the High Court.

30. A correspondent of the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 9th May writes that Babu Jnanendranath Pal, Deputy Magistrate of Khulna, may be seen presiding at Court with a cigar

SANDHYA,
May 9th, 1905.

Babu Jnanendranath Pal, Deputy Magistrate of Khulna.

between his lips and a newspaper in his hand—at intervals taking up one or two filed applications of complaint and then either dismissing them under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, or giving summary decisions on them. As a result of the practice of ordering, in connexion with these trials, the complainants to pay the costs of the defendants and similar other practices, the Khulna public are enjoying peace—whether it is real or only on the surface, the local Magistrates do not think it necessary to inquire. From the official records it appears that there are no cases in the Criminal Courts in Khulna, but whether this betokens a real decrease of crime is a subject worth inquiry. Rather it may be the case that the criminal classes have only become bolder as the result of too frequent use of section 203, Criminal Procedure Code.

(d)—Education.

31. In reference to the restriction imposed by the Secretary of State for India upon the students intending to go to Europe to learn arts and industries, the *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipur] of the 1st May observes that in a short time the people of India will not be allowed to go to Europe for any such purpose.

BIHAR BANDHU,
May 1st, 1905.

32. Noticing the dates fixed for the next Calcutta University examinations, the same paper says that last year the *Holi* festival fell on the days fixed for the F. A. and B. A. Examinations. Next year the same festivals fall on the days fixed for the Entrance Examination. Last year the F. A. candidates were deprived of the holidays; next year it will be the turn of the candidates for the Entrance Examination. What will the poor fellows do? Why, satisfy themselves with a look at the sombre-looking building of the University.

BIHAR BANDHU.

33. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 4th May writes:—

SANJIVANI,
May 4th, 1905.

The Victoria Diamond Jubilee
Technical Institute at Lahore.

A Technical Institute is going to be established at Lahore as a memorial of the late Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The Punjab Government has offered a fixed grant of Rs. 10,000 in aid of this institute and a recurring grant of Rs. 100 per mensem. Rupees 10,000 to equip and build a Technical School—this is strange indeed! Is this the way in which Government proposes to promote industrial education in India? Even a lakh would have been barely sufficient in the present instance to start the institute on the most ordinary equipment. And what sort of tutors will be available on Rs. 100 a month?

34. We are unable to comprehend, says the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th May, why the proposed Röntgen Ray Institute will be established at Dehra Dun instead of at Calcutta.

*SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA*,
May 4th, 1905.

The proposed Röntgen Ray
Institute in India.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BASAR PATRIKA,
May 4th, 1905.

35. The same paper is glad that the authorities are making arrangements for encouraging education among married girls and widows in Bengal.

SOLTAN,
May 5th, 1905.

36. A correspondent of the *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 5th May takes exception to the resolution which was adopted at the late second annual sitting of the Bengal Provincial Muhammadan Educational Conference in favour of extending the present strict rules about transfer certificates which obtains in the case of colleges and schools to the Madrassahs as well. It is urged that the authorities of private Madrassahs in many cases charge transfer fees highly exorbitant in comparison with the rate of their monthly tuition fees, and that in view of this fact, if transfer certificates were to be insisted on in all cases, it would become impossible for the poor Musalman student to obtain transfer from a private Madrassah to a Government one, even if circumstances rendered such a course necessary in any case.

SOLTAN.

37. The same paper complains that the present system of instructing the students in schools and colleges in India in Persian, Arabic and Urdu ends in their learning none of these languages satisfactorily. The suggestion is accordingly made that the instruction in future be confined to Urdu alone and a high proficiency in that language demanded. It is pointed out that there are very few sacred works of the Musalmans which cannot be read in Urdu, and, further, that a knowledge of this language will now enable a person to make himself understood by people almost all over the East.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 5th, 1905.

38. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May says that the introduction of worthless native painting in the Calcutta Government School of Art by Mr. Havell has given rise to serious complaints among the students. Mr. Havell ought to have known that this class of painting, however elegant and admirable from an artistic point of view, is looked upon by the higher classes in this country as extremely derogatory, and their boys will never take to it for a living.

Mr. Havell is reported to have said that Western art is difficult to be taught to students in this country. Why this should be so is not at all clear. It is said that there are no capable teachers in the school to teach Western painting and that it is for this reason that wretched native painting is sought to be taught. If this be true, what can be a more regrettable state of things than this? The complaints of the students appear to be perfectly justifiable. What is wanted by Indian students in these hard days is not the improvement of Oriental painting, but the acquirement of such proficiency as will help them to earn their livelihood. It is to be hoped that the matter will attract the attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

BASUMATI,
May 6th, 1905.

39. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 6th May writes as follows:—
It is rumoured that Mr. Havell, the Principal of the Government Art School, Calcutta, has reported to the authorities that Bengalis neither like nor have the capacity to learn high-class painting. If this is true, Government will eagerly seize this opportunity to abolish the teaching of high-class painting in that school. Mr. Havell's report is, if the rumour is correct, a product of his fertile brain and has no foundation in fact. That Bengali art students are very fond of high-class painting and dislike low-class painting was proved by Mr. Jobbins in the Simla Art Conference. Since the establishment of the Calcutta Art School, the art productions of many of its students have drawn admiration even from European art critics and have secured prizes in exhibitions. The art of painting is still in its infancy in our country, and so long its progress has been very hopeful. But now it is on the point of dying out for want of encouragement. This can be proved by an inspection of the students' register in the school. Lord Northbrook and Sir Richard Temple established the Calcutta Art Gallery for the encouragement of high-class art. But Mr. Havell is selling out the valuable paintings contained in it and turning it into a factory of brass and bell-metal utensils and native paintings. In fact, various means and artifices are being adopted to check high-class art education in this country. Can Mr. Havell

deny that the scholarships of students in the Art School, who showed an eagerness to learn high-class painting, have not only been stopped, but that they have been obliged to refund the scholarships already paid to them? Was it not attempted to deprive a number of students of their free studentship for showing a desire to learn high-class painting? Government should enquire into these serious complaints. Can we not expect from a poetic Viceroy like Lord Curzon, a Viceroy who is well known for his love of fine art, even that much sympathy for the improvement of the Art School which was shown by prosaic Viceroys like Lord Northbrook and Lord Lansdowne? Shall we have nothing but destruction from Lord Curzon? Mr. Havell may be a *protégé* of His Excellency, but His Excellency should not do injustice to his own instinctive love of fine art for gratifying that gentleman's whim.

40. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May hopes that Mr. P. Mukharji, Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division, will not be appointed Secretary of the new Text-Book Committee which is about to be formed.

The Central Text-Book Committee.

There is a rule that nobody who is himself a writer of school-books or who has near relations who are writers of school-books should be appointed a member of the Committee. Men like Babu Chandra Nath Bose and Justice Sarada Charan Mitra were excluded from the existing Committee on the strength of this rule. Mr. Mukharji is not himself a writer of school-books, but his mother-in-law is the author of a large number of such books. And the strangest thing about these books of his mother-in-law's is that whilst they were never appointed as text-books before, they came to be so appointed after Mr. Mukharji's appointment to the Secretaryship of the Text-Book Committee. The writer does not hereby mean to insinuate that Mrs. Swarna Kumari Devi's school-books are unfit to be appointed as text-books. But he only wants to know why a rule which applies to others should not apply to the Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division. The public would like to see an able, upright and disinterested man like Rai Rajendra Chandra Sastri, Bahadur, Librarian of the Bengal Library, appointed Secretary of the new Committee, and Justice Sarada Charan Mitra, Babu Narayan Chandra Bhattacharyya, Bengali Translator to Government, Babu Bhagavat Chandra Goswami, Professor, Bangavasi College, and Babu Syama Charan Ganguly, formerly of the Uttarpara College, appointed its members.

BANGAVASI,
May 6th, 1905.

41. A correspondent of the same paper says that Blackie and Son's *Newton Infant Reader*, which has been appointed as a text-book for the fifth standard of the vernacular schools, is quite unsuited for the boys for

BANGAVASI.

An English reader for vernacular schools.

whom it is intended. Boys of the fifth standard are generally ten or eleven years of age and the book in question has been avowedly written for boys of six or seven. The lessons in the book appear, therefore, too childish to boys of the fifth standard, who have made some progress in such important branches of study as grammar, geography, history and arithmetic. Is there, for instance, anything for such a boy to learn from the lesson about the nephew and his aunt? Nay, most boys of the fifth standard will be unable to contain their laughter on reading it. It is nothing, in fact, but cutting a joke to make the boys of the fifth standard read such a lesson. The lessons in the book describe incidents which are unnatural and improbable in this country. For, instance, no native woman of this country would go out with her nephew for a walk in the fields, such as the lesson referred to above describes. To teach the boys of this country things which do not and cannot happen here is to give them a bad education. In his book "A Few Thoughts on Education," Sir Guru Das Bannerji rightly says:—"Scenes and events of foreign countries which have no counterparts in his own, should be avoided." It has certainly not been honest of the publishers of this book to call it an "Indian edition."

Like the *Newton Reader* No. 1, the *Newton Infant Reader* contains lessons about articles of food which are an abomination to the Hindu. Hen's eggs and even duck's eggs are forbidden food to the Hindu. Yet he is compelled to read lessons dealing with these articles of food.

The lesson on the thrush at pages 20—23 is calculated to teach cruelty to the boys and no Hindu boy should therefore read it.

In conclusion, the correspondent makes a general indictment against school-books written by Englishmen for English boys as being too full of matters relating to eating, drinking and play and other frivolities of a similar nature to be suited for Hindu boys, who are intellectually and spiritually far superior to English boys.

DACCA PRAKAS,
May 7th, 1905.

42. In continuing his allegations against the management of the Dacca Training School Boarding-house (see Report on Native Papers for the week ending the 6th May 1905, para. 38), a correspondent of the *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 7th May says that the members of the Hindu Boarding were some time ago, in view of an approaching visit from Mr. Orange, made to pay Rs. 3 each out of their pockets towards the purchase of bedsteads, an article of furniture which they had hitherto done without, but which the Headmaster considered it apparently necessary they should possess if Mr. Orange with his European ideas of comfort were to go away satisfied with his inspection of the Boarding-house.

Reference is next made to the terrible state of overcrowding which prevails in the Moslem Boarding-house, where so many as eight or ten lads live and study in the same room.

Complaint is also made about the meagre qualifications of Jagat Chandra Das, under whom the members of the Boarding receive their instruction in gymnastics. It is said that he is a youth not yet out of his teens, who, failing to pass the University Entrance Examination, has now enrolled himself in the compounders' classes of the local Medical School. This instructor has been provided with free quarters in the boarding-houses, as well as with a monthly stipend of Rs. 10 for his labours.

HITAVARTA,
May 7th, 1905.

43. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 7th May has a short review of Lord Curzon's educational policy, in which his educational policy is considered the most unpopular. The last paragraph is as follows:—

It is to be hoped that Lord Curzon will before leaving India try his best to win the affection of the Indian people.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BIHAR BANDHU,
May 1st, 1905.

44. The *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipur] of the 1st May complains of the unsatisfactory condition of the Ajudhya and Nasik Municipalities, both of which levy a tax on *Sadhus* or poor mendicants, and asks the people to approach the Government with a strong protest against the tax.

MANBHUM,
May 2nd, 1905.

45. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 2nd May draws attention to the risk to which Purulia is exposed in consequence of the large influx of people from Calcutta in consequence of the plague epidemic.

SANJIVANI,
April 4th, 1905.

46. With reference to the recent notification by the Calcutta Municipality about the offer of a reward of two pice for each live rat that may be delivered at its Entally incinerator, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 4th May suggests that the reward, to be really attractive, should have been four pice instead of two, and that it should have extended to the case of dead rats as well, for it is much easier to catch a rat dead than to catch it alive.

BANGAVASI,
May 6th, 1905.

47. Referring to the proposal to kill all rats in Calcutta, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May asks whether it will be easy to extirpate rats in Calcutta, seeing that these animals live several feet below the ground. Besides, has it been proved for certain that it is the rats which disseminate the infection of plague?

BHARAT MITRA,
May 6th, 1905.

48. Referring to the offer by the local Municipality of a reward of half an anna for every live rat brought to its office, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 6th May asks:—
“And what for the hundreds of dead rats lying in the streets of Barabazar?”

49. Referring to the appointment of Mr. Payne to officiate as the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, the *Hitavadi*

HITAVADI.
May 5th, 1905.

The officiating Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality.

[Calcutta] of the 5th May says:—

Mr. Payne is a white man and a Civilian; on the other hand, the Vice-Chairman of the Municipality is a black man and a Bengali. The eagle eye of the Lieutenant-Governor has, therefore, missed the latter in spite of the thousand and one good qualities which he possesses. The rate-payers of Calcutta will no doubt be grateful to His Honour for this!

50. With reference to the question put in the meeting of the Calcutta Corporation on the 3rd May last about the "practice

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 6th, 1905.

A recent interpellation in the Calcutta Municipality.

of extinguishing at about 12 o'clock many of the lamps in Harrison Road" and the reply of the

Chairman thereto, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May writes:—

We are amazed at the Chairman's reply. Can anybody explain to us why this offer of the Gas Company's to extinguish some of the lamps at 12 was accepted? Is it necessary to point out at any length the risk of insufficient lighting in a street, which even at daytime is sometimes infested by *budmashes*? We do not know how much money is saved by this arrangement to the taxpayer, but we are not at all in favour of such economy.

51. In reviewing the Government Resolution on the report of the

KRISHNANAGAR,
May 3rd 1905.

The working of Municipalities.

Commissioner of the Presidency Division on the working of the Municipalities in that Division for

1904, the *Krishnanagar* [Krishnagar] of the 3rd May suggests that the real cause of the present inefficiency of the majority of these Municipalities of which complaint is made in the report in question is to be found in the general body of Commissioners having no adequate authority over the municipal executive. By the present system the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman alone possess authority over the executive, and as such they naturally come to look upon themselves as superior beings and to treat lightly the suggestions of their brother Commissioners. So in time these Commissioners also retaliate by obstructing any and every suggestion of the Chairmen or the Vice-Chairmen.

52. A correspondent writing to the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 5th May

SAMAY,
May 5th, 1905.

The Sunamganj Local Board in Sylhet.

complains that the public money of the Sunamganj Local Board in Sylhet is being spent on the construction of roads for the convenience of private

persons and on the digging of tanks in the houses of particular individuals.

53. The same paper notices that Lord Ampthill has appointed an Indian,

SAMAY.

An Indian Engineer in the service of the Madras Municipality.

Mr. H. Naroji, to act temporarily as Engineer to the Madras Municipality, and expresses the opinion that although there are qualified Indian Engineers available in Calcutta also, none has yet been

appointed to the responsible office of Engineer to the Calcutta Corporation, a fact which is to be attributed to Lord Curzon's strange policy.

54. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May suggests

BANGAVASI,
May 6th, 1905.

The water-supply question.

that the portion of the water-supply fund which, under the Government's water-supply circular, has

to be contributed by the raiyats should be realized from the zamindars out of the excess of the road and public works cesses realized by them over the Government demand. The editor, however, doubts whether it would be fair to do this, seeing that zamindars never succeed in realizing their dues in full and have often, in consequence, to sustain loss.

55. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th May complains that acute

BANKURA DARPAN,
May 8th, 1905.

Water-scarcity in Bankura.

water-scarcity has begun to be felt in parts of the Bankura district. It is further pointed out in this

connexion that the small amounts spent annually by the District Board for the digging of wells would not go far to alleviate distress in this direction. What is wanted is the reclamation of quite a large number of old tanks as well as the construction of several new ones.

Reference is also made to the scarcity of pure drinking-water which prevails in the town of Bankura itself.

(f)—Questions affecting the Land.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
May 3rd, 1905.

56. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 3rd May writes:—

Settlement operations in Backergunge.

We understand that the many cases between Babu Rajendra Chander Rai Chowdhury and others and his tenants which were pending in the Court of the local Munsif have recently been decided. The trying Munsif has set aside the settlement award and has decreed in full the zamindars' claim. The news of this decision has created satisfaction among all zamindars here. The settlement awards are creating strife between zamindar and tenant. In this particular suit alone, no less than Rs. 15,000 were spent by the zamindar alone; and an almost equal sum must have been spent by the tenants as well. Where are the friends of the raiyats now? We do not know what the consequences of this settlement will be.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

SANJIVANI,
May 4th, 1905.

57. A correspondent writing to the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 4th May

A railway complaint.

complains of the inconvenience to which passengers are subjected at Katihar station on account of the want of a supply a good drinking-water. It is pointed out that the existing well water-supply is contaminated, and that even such as it is, individual passengers cannot often get it owing to the negligence of the *pani-pandes* (water-carriers). The opening of a refreshment room for Hindus at this station is suggested. Attention is also drawn to the necessity of some alteration in the present corrugated-iron roofing of the third-class waiting shed at this station on account of the extreme heat which it gives out when long exposed to the sun's rays.

Reference is also made by the same correspondent to the absence, on the Bengal and North-Western Railway, of special waiting-rooms for females and of special female ticket collectors, and also to the immoderate rate of commission which is charged on hawkers of sweetmeats at the station platforms.

SAMAY,
May 3rd, 1905.

58. A correspondent writing to the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May from

A complaint.

Kalipahari complains about the shortage of the local supply of available railway waggons for the transport of rubble coal, and the loss inflicted thereby on the *kutials*.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 5th, 1905.

59. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May says

A railway complaint.

that on the 1st May last, Babu Babulal Chakrabarti, Head Clerk of the Bengal Chemical Examiner's Office, Calcutta, having come to the Bagnan station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to avail himself of the No. 2 down passenger train on his way to Calcutta, was grossly insulted by a railway coolie and the Station-master himself without any provocation whatever. The incident occurred in the presence of Babu Sital Chandra Ghosal and Babu Gopal Palit, B.L., Pleaders of Uluberia, and many other gentlemen.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 7th, 1905.

60. A correspondent of the same paper of the 7th May writing

A railway complaint.

from Mollarpur, in Birbhum, complains that whereas in former years it was the custom during the summer season to employ extra *pani-pandes* (water-carriers) in every railway station in that portion of the East Indian Railway, this year the Traffic Superintendent at Sahibganj, who is a new arrival, has abolished all *pani-pandes* from all the stations, excepting only Rampur Hat, Nalhati and one or two other places. Great inconvenience is felt by passengers in consequence of this innovation.

(h)—General.

BIHAR BANDHU,
May 1st, 1905.

61. Commenting upon the remarks of the Government of Bengal on the

The Government and the native press.

moral tone of the native press, the *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipur] of the 1st May says:—

The charge might be fittingly brought against Lord Curzon, whose actions have been adversely criticized even by the press of his own country. Lord Curzon who extolled himself so much in his last budget speech should see what his countrymen think of him. But why should he see unless he feels ashamed? We should not feel offended at these remarks of the Government because adverse criticisms, no matter whether they be right or

wrong, are apt to be resented by persons against whom they are directed and met by a hundred invectives for every one that is used by the critic. If the Government has, therefore, followed the ordinary course there is nothing to wonder at in the fact. But nothing is to be gained by discussions, or attacks and counter-attacks on this question. We advise our contemporaries not to slacken in their zeal to discharge their duty, dispirited by the unmerited criticisms of the Government. Of course it is painful to see the Government regarding us as anything but friends, which we believe we are. But what is the remedy? "The strong strikes the weak but does not let him cry; when defeated in argument he meets it with a blow."

62. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 2nd May publishes the following Competition *versus* nomination. in English:—

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
May 2nd, 1905.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "TRIPURA HITAIISHI,"
COMILLA.

DEAR SIR,

Would you kindly allow me a little space in your paper for the following lines? I write purposely in English.

Regarding the clamour against the abolition of the so-called competitive examination for recruitment of the Provincial and Subordinate Civil Services, viz., the Deputy and the Sub-Deputy Collectors, it appears to me that a very important point has been lost sight of by the publicists in the mufassal who join the Calcutta papers in decriing the change. You know that these two services are at present manned out of all proportion by men residing in Calcutta or its neighbourhood. This was the inevitable result of a system in which the nominations and appointments were made by the Secretariat in Calcutta. Candidates from the mufassal have hitherto been severely handicapped by reason of their distant residence from Calcutta in securing interest with the powers that be for entering these services; and this cause, apart from educational backwardness, has had much to do in excluding the distant mufassalite from these services. You are certainly aware of the exceedingly small number of men belonging to your own district of Tippera who are either Deputy Collectors or Sub-Deputy Collectors. One effect of the recent change will be to decentralize nomination by empowering the Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates to send up nominations out of local men; and certainly this is a welcome change for men residing in the mufassal, and particularly in remote places like Tippera, Noakhali and Chittagong. I therefore fail to see why you people of the mufassal should not welcome the change.

As to the principle, nomination *versus* competition, involved in the question, that has been fully explained by the Local and the Imperial Governments in their Resolutions on the subject. There was practically no scope allowed for competition worth the name, at least in Bengal. Most of the appointments have been made by nomination all along; and it is a clear gain to you of the distant mufassal that for securing nominations you will not be required any longer to run down to Calcutta in order to scramble for an interview with the Chief Secretary at enormous cost and disadvantage to yourself, but you will now have ample time and opportunity of urging your suit with the Magistrate at Comilla or the Commissioner at Chittagong.

Yours truly,

B.

63. The same paper complains that ill-feeling has arisen between zamindars and tenants in the districts of Palamau and Singhbhum and inquires if a similar state of disquiet does not prevail in the Government *khas mahals* also.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI.

Ill-feeling between zamindars and tenants.

64. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 2nd May, in noticing the recent circular issued by Mr. Carlyle, remarks that it will have the effect of bringing home to District and Subdivisional Magistrates that many of their acts which they themselves did not regard as at all wrong are regarded as seriously wrong by the Government.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 2nd, 1905.

65. There can be no objection, says the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May, to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal delegating some of his powers to the Divisional Commissioners. But the power of taking subordinate officials openly to task for misdeeds should not be thus delegated and reduced to a matter of secret warning to them from Divisional Commissioners. No amount of secret warning from a Divisional Commissioner can have the same salutary effect on a wayward or oppressive official as an open rebuke from the Lieutenant-Governor. His Honour is requested to reconsider the matter.

HITAVADI,
May 5th, 1905.

The power of taking officials to task for misdeeds.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
May 8th, 1905.

66. Referring to the Government Resolution of the 24th February last defining the relation in which the District Judges are to stand to the Divisional Commissioners, the

Hindi Bangavasi [Calcutta] of the 8th May says that while the people of the country were dreaming the happy dream of the separation of the Judicial from the Executive, the local rulers were devising means for a further centralization of the two powers.

BARISAL HITAISHI,
May 3rd, 1905.

67. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 3rd May writes:—

Gun-licenses in Backergunge. We are informed from a credible source that only thirteen names find a place in the list of gun-licensees which has been prepared for this district. The license is in fact to be confined to some of those only who are "darbari," i.e., entitled to a private interview with His Honour when he comes on a visit here.

BARISAL HITAISHI,

68. The same paper complains that in the Barisal Treasury when people

Currency notes in the Barisal Treasury. ask for currency notes, say to the amount of a thousand rupees, the Treasury Officer often refuses to pay out more than five hundred rupees in notes and rebukes them for showing too great a partiality for currency notes.

The same paper also notices that some of the local *muhajans* often buy out all the currency notes from the treasury at any one particular moment, and when the treasury is empty of notes, people who wish for notes in exchange for cash must perforce look to them to accommodate them, which they do only after charging a handsome commission on each transaction.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
May 3rd, 1905.

69. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 3rd May writes:—

A complaint against Mr. Halifax, District Magistrate of Murshidabad. *Sutra* is the name of sacred music among Musalmans. Like the *Harinam Sankirtans* among Hindus, this sacred music is performed in procession through the town. A pass was obtained for this

purpose which granted permission for the music to continue up to 10 o'clock at night. Accordingly the music was being performed in the house of Abu Shekh of Gorabazar, when, on the 29th April last, the police first objected to its going on. Since then Abu Shekh has been served with a notice over the signature of Mr. Halifax, the District Magistrate, to show cause why he should not be committed under section 188, Indian Penal Code, for having at 3 o'clock on the night in question caused annoyance to the public by passing in procession through the streets while singing and beating drums.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
May 8th, 1905.

70. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May exhorts the orthodox

A prohibition against *Sankirtan* procession in Behrampur. Hindus of Gorabazar in Berhampur, who were forbidden by the local Magistrate to form at night *Sankirtan* procession, in the following terms:—

You go on with your work. You will have response from God when you pray for it. You know the devout Prahlad prayed and there was response.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
May 3rd, 1905.

71. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 3rd May draws attention to the

A suggested new post office. claims of the village of Dasin near Bagerhat in Khulna to have a post office of its own—a question which has been the subject of repeated petitions to the authorities. It is said that this village is the home of a distinguished zamindar and wakil and is the seat as well of a school and a library, and that generally its condition may be stated to be one of progress and advancement.

KASIPUR NIVASI.

72. The same paper suggests the necessity of an increase in the staff of

A postal complaint. peons attached to the Barisal post office if delays in the delivery of letters, etc., such as those recently complained of in regard to the Amanatganj beat, are to be avoided in future.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
May 4th, 1905.

73. A correspondent of the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika*

Foreign money-orders. [Calcutta] of the 4th May points out that the rates of fees of inland and foreign money-orders in India are equal, and that there are big offices both in Calcutta and in Bombay for facilitating the transmission of foreign money-orders alone. A moiety of the cost of maintaining these offices should, under these circumstances, be borne by England.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 6th, 1905.

74. With reference to the changes in the jurisdiction of Postal Superintendents in Bengal which came into effect from the 1st April, and by virtue of which Faridpur was

Matters postal.

detached from the jurisdiction of the Barisal Superintendent and made into an independent charge, while Khulna was transferred from the Presidency Division to the Barisal Division, a correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May points out that the existing Nadia, Midnapore, Berhampur, Rajshahi and Hooghly charges are so heavy that it is almost impossible for the Superintendents of those divisions to inspect all the offices under them even once a year. The suggestion is therefore offered that each district should be made a separate jurisdiction for a Postal Superintendent, one effect of which will be the doing away of the present system whereby many Superintendents confine themselves to desk work at head-quarters, leaving the Inspectors under them to do the inspection work.

The same correspondent complains that the present Postal Superintendent of the Barisal Division, who is a *Vaidya* by caste, is showing an undue partiality for his own caste people in making appointments to the public service. The following four specific cases are given as illustration :—

- (1) The post of Sub-Postmaster of Patuakhali, worth Rs. 60, was given to a *Vaidya* clerk on Rs. 36, in supersession of the claims of many efficient seniors on Rs. 50 and Rs. 40.
- (2) The post of Inspector for the Barisal subdivision having temporarily fallen vacant, a raw young man, who was drawing Rs. 40, also a *Vaidya*, was selected to fill it.
- (3) The post of third clerk in the Superintendent's office was recently filled up not by old probationers but by an outsider, a *Vaidya*.
- (4) A *Vaidya* has replaced a *Kayastha* employé in the Kalibari post office.
- (5) All the four clerks in the Superintendent's office are *Vaidyas*.

75. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th May speaks in severe terms of the Magistrate

A Magistrate alleged to have travelled without a ticket.

of a place near Calcutta, who, it is reported by a correspondent of the *Indian Empire* newspaper, recently travelled first class on a railway without a ticket, and when detected, haughtily refused to pay the fare and penalty. Will the authorities enquire whether the case is true?

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
May 4th, 1905

76. The same paper says that many people will be sorry if Government purchases the Calcutta Town Hall premises, as it is rumoured it will.

The Calcutta Town Hall.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA,
BAZAR PATRIKA.

77. With reference to the rumoured purchase of the Calcutta Town Hall by Government, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 5th May writes :—

The rumoured purchase of the Calcutta Town Hall by Government.

That impertinent natives should assemble in the very vicinity of Government House to protest against the doings of the high officials is great insolence. It may be likened to "bearding the lion in his own den." The fact that this proposal comes just after the last public use of the Hall for the holding of the protest meeting against Lord Curzon is apt to suggest many reflections.

SAMAY,
May 5th, 1905.

78. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 4th May, in noticing the recent utterance of Sir David Masson in connection with the inauguration of the Earthquake Relief Fund about retired European officials and tea-planters being

The Lahore Earthquake Relief Fund.

specially deserving objects of charity, remarks :—

It does not seem that any adequate share of the Relief Fund will fall to the lot of the really poor, if, out of it, is to be supplied the capital which will rebuild and renew the buildings and plantations which were originally started at outlays of thousands of rupees. The really poor do not know how to bring their grievances to the notice of the public. We trust the Committee will administer relief with discrimination.

SANJIVANI,
May 4th, 1905.

HITAVADI,
May 5th, 1905.

79. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May finds fault with the conduct of the authorities in the matter of the relief of the sufferers from the recent earthquake in the Kangra Valley. An attempt was made to raise subscriptions in England, but Lord Curzon prevented it. And the Punjab Government shewed extraordinary dilatoriness in making proper arrangements for receiving subscriptions.

BASUMATI,
May 6th, 1905.

The earthquake relief.

80. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 6th May writes:—

Earthquake relief.

Major Hayashi and another Japanese officer have recently been to Simla, under instructions from the Japanese Government, to investigate the losses caused by the late earthquake, and to inquire in what way the Japanese Government might be of service in this connexion. They have been informed that no further assistance is considered necessary. Offers of assistance from England also have been similarly refused. And yet we hear complaints that the distressed are not receiving aid as they should. Hesitation to accept offers of assistance from outsiders may be quite natural to Government, but such hesitation can only be held justifiable after the distress has been properly relieved.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 6th, 1905.

HITAVARTA,
May 7th, 1905.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS
DAS HABLUL MATEEN,
May 8th, 1905.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 5th, 1905.

The Earthquake Relief Fund.

81. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 6th and the *Hitavarta* of the 7th May [Calcutta] notice the issue of an appeal for charity for the relief of the sufferers from the last earthquake.

82. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 8th May notices Lord Curzon's refusal to accept foreign help for the sufferers from the earthquake.

83. Referring to the proposed road from Nagrakata station on the Bengal Duars Railway to the Chumbi Valley, for which an estimate of 80 lakhs has been made, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May observes

that the prospect of a hill station pleasanter than Darjeeling may delight Englishmen, and English merchants may be beside themselves with joy at the expectation of having a new market for their merchandise, but the poor, famished Indians have nothing to rejoice at in this. On the contrary, they have been not a little upset at seeing that the money which might be spent in works calculated to do them good, is going to be spent on useless projects.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 6th, 1905.

84. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May notices with approval the recent action of the Bombay Government in prohibiting the sale of liquor to children under the age of 15, and appeals to the Bengal Government to imitate the policy of the Bombay Government in this matter.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
May 8th, 1905.

The rumoured resignation of Lord Kitchener.

85. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May does not believe in the rumour based on the alleged resignation of Lord Kitchener which has got currency in journalistic circles to the effect that it has given a good pretext to Lord Curzon to go to England, resigning his present post before the next election in order to secure a place in the Cabinet. It is also stated that if he does not do so, Lord Kitchener, who has already resigned, will proceed to England shortly and get a place in the Cabinet. In that case Lord Curzon will be an ordinary member only.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 10th, 1905.

Fear of a Russian invasion and the Indian military charges.

86. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th May writes:— Some people are of opinion that all the talk of the danger a Russian invasion of India is a mere device to justify the increase in military expenditure. When the Indian Government objected to be saddled with the cost of maintaining part of the garrison in South Africa, the English Ministers distinctly hinted that the cost must be put on the Indian tax-payer in some other way.

SANDHYA,
May 10th, 1905.

India and the policy of retaliation.

87. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 10th May writes:— A good piece of evidence has been lately received of the excellent knowledge of India possessed by the almighty controller of India's destinies in England—the Secretary of State. In connexion with the subject of Tariff Reform, Mr. Brodrick recently made a speech in the course of which he

said that India does not find much difficulty in compelling the continental States to admit her goods, whereas England does. And, further, that India possesses the power of teaching a lesson, i.e., retaliating on the country which taxes the imports of her goods too heavily. The ignorance displayed by the making of statements like these appalled many. Since then he has been caught red-handed so to speak. For he had since then to admit in reply to a question in Parliament that in France Indian goods are taxed at a higher rate than English goods. Again, when the sugar duties were raised in India some years ago, Russia replied with an increase of the duty on Indian tea. It is with knowledge like this that our rulers govern the country.

III.—LEGISLATION.

88. With reference to the proposal to enact a Police Law for all India on the basis of the recommendations of the late Police Commission, the *Hindu Ranjika* [Rajshahi] of the 26th April expresses the opinion that the Resolution which the Government issued on the recommendations of the Commission contained many suggestions which were taken strong exception to by the public at the time, and which are even now being criticized adversely in the Press. It behoves Government before finally deciding on the draft of the proposed legislation to take careful note of these criticisms.

HINDU RANJIKA,
April 26th, 1905.

89. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 5th May writes:—

The Arms Act. The natives of India are well-trusted subjects of the Indian Government. It is simply in order to preserve their lives that Government has deprived them of their arms. If all qualified Indians, irrespective of caste and creed, were admitted to the army, that would mean that they would have to fight and yield their lives to the enemy some day or other. Government wishes to preserve them from this risk and has accordingly confined the recruitment of the army to four or five martial races. Troops are to be imported from outside to defend the country from foreign invaders and to keep the internal peace. It will not permit its beloved Indian subjects to accept such risky duties. What Government in this world takes so much care of the lives of its subjects? And this prohibition to carry arms is not confined to Indians in their own country alone, but has recently been extended to those of them who have settled in Natal for trading and other purposes.

SAMAY,
May 5th, 1905.

90. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th May writes:—

The Official Secrets Act. The reports about Lord Kitchener having resigned office were published in the Indian papers, but as they were taken from the English newspapers, Government cannot take any steps under the Official Secrets Act. The Simla authorities can now do nothing but preserve a chilling silence. It appears now therefore that the taking up of the amendment of the old Official Secrets Act was so much labour wasted. Information which the officials do not wish should reach the public is notwithstanding constantly getting wind, as, for instance, in the case of the Tibet Mission. Many pieces of confidential official information are first published in the English press. Under the circumstances, will Government explain where the need was to have an Official Secrets Act in this country.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 7th, 1905.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

91. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May says that the banished princes of Manipur have again applied to the Viceroy for justice being done in the Maxwell affair. It is hoped that His Excellency will not allow the matter to be hushed up simply because Mr. Maxwell is a white man. If the matter is hushed up the people will know that God has not allowed India to be submerged by the ocean simply because it may remain the scene of oppression by white people.

PRATIJNA,
May 3rd, 1905.

HITAVADI.
May 5th, 1905.

92. Referring to the death of Nawab Syed Fateh Ali Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., of Banganapali, Madras, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May says:—

The late Nawab Syed Fateh Ali Khan Bahadur of Banganapali. The deceased, who, 27 years ago, received the title of Nawab for his administrative ability, was considered incompetent by Lord Curzon and removed from his *gadi* two years ago during an illness which, aggravated by the mental shock caused thereby, has at last carried him away. The Nawab is now beyond all worldly cares and agonies, but has Lord Curzon's Government acquired a good name by giving pain to him?

BHARAT MITRA,
May 6th, 1905.

93. In noticing the sale by auction at Calcutta of the jewellery of the Raja of Dholepur and the horses of the Koer Saheb of Patiala, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 6th May observes that Calcutta is becoming a market for the articles of luxury of the native princes.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

KRISHNANAGAR.
May 3rd, 1905.

94. The *Krishnanagar* [Krishnagar] of the 3rd May says that the condition of the cultivating classes all over Nadia has now become so acute that if there is any difficulty with the forthcoming *aus* paddy crop, there will be a terrible famine in the district.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BIHAR BANDHU,
May 1st, 1905.

95. In noticing the failure of the meeting organized by a Muhammadan of Bombay to condemn the meetings held to protest against Lord Curzon's Convocation speech, the *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipur] of the 1st May says that one cannot suppress laughter on reading a description of the meeting given by a Bombay contemporary.

BIHAR BANDHU.

96. The same paper learns that pressure is being brought to bear upon Mr. Balfour, the Prime Minister, to resign and therefore he is anxious to give high posts to men belonging to his party. It is said that he is going to recall Lord Curzon also, but His Excellency's love for India is very great, hence he is unwilling to go. Some such thoughts must be passing in his mind: Why should I leave India? I shall have to spend the rest of my life in England. I hope to get the Premiership at the next election. Indeed, the Premiership means control over India also and opportunity for now and then dealing with it in the way I like.

BIHAR BANDHU.

97. In noticing the *Vyanteshwar Samachar's* comment upon the genealogy given in the Administration Report of the ruling princes of Cooch Behar and Hill Tippera, the same paper approvingly quotes a contemporary who fears lest the family priesthood may pass into the hands of Government, and remarks:—

But what we are afraid of is lest Government might levy a fee for furnishing any information on the subject, as the priests do at present.

JASOHAR,
May 3rd, 1905.

98. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 3rd May refers with joyful anticipation to the Lieutenant-Governor's rumoured visit to Jessore town, and prays His Honour to try to do whatever he thinks fit for the poor suffering people of the district after seeing their condition with his own eyes.

PRATIJNA,
May 3rd, 1905.

99. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May has the following in the course of a long article:—

The poverty problem of India. Some people say that political agitation will remove the wants and grievances of India. But you are a dependent nation and have no voice in the administration of the country. What have you to do with political agitation? The stupidity of those Indians who are rejoicing at the prospect of a Liberal Ministry in England simply astonishes us. What did you gain when Mr. Gladstone, the great Liberal, became the Prime Minister of England?

There are those again who say that India will be saved by the expansion of her arts and commerce. But England will never allow us to advance much in that path. Every intelligent man will acknowledge that force of arms is necessary for the preservation of arts and commerce. But where is that force of arms for us? There is no hope of an improvement of arts and commerce for a dependent people like ourselves. All this clearly shows that the problem of the poverty of India is an extremely hard one. It will not be solved so long as the continuous drain on India's wealth by England is not stopped. But how can that drain be stopped? This is a question which must be promptly solved if the nation is to be saved from extirpation.

100. In a poem a correspondent of the same paper says that there is poverty in every house and the chain of slavery on every neck. The writer calls upon all Indians

A poem.

to rise and remove the deep poverty of the country by worshipping the Goddess of Power. There is nothing in this world, says the writer, which cannot be achieved by dint of application. If it is the law of Providence that one who is born must die, why then fear death?

101. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 4th May notices the recently reported conduct of the drivers and guards of the Simla-Kalka Railway in giving one month's notice of their intention of resigning service on that line by way of protest against what they consider as the

Reported strike of the guards and drivers of the Simla-Kalka Railway.

unjust conviction of two of their fellow-employees on account of a recent derailment of a train, and remarks that if the educated classes had been able to go on strike like the uneducated masses they would have been spared a good deal of the harassment and insolence to which they are now subjected at the hands of their masters.

102. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May says:—

The Boers and the Indians treated differently.

Although in the Transvaal a Legislative Assembly has been established on the pattern of the Legislative Councils in India, yet there is this important difference between the two that in the former assembly Government forms the minority. Everyone, not to speak of the Transvaal Government, fears strong men like the Boers, but none cares for peaceful men like the Indians. The Indian residents in the Transvaal will have no voice in the assembly, and this arrangement is considered satisfactory by the majority of the English press.

103. Referring to the remarks made by the *Bombay Gazette* newspaper on the attitude of Lord Curzon in the matter of the Prince of Wales's visit to India, the same paper writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon and the Prince of Wales's visit to India.

The *Bombay Gazette* has not at all exaggerated the true import of the situation. As a matter of fact Lord Curzon, who is extremely fond of shows, is giving free indulgence to that spirit of his at our cost. The Delhi Darbar was not enough for him, and so he has desired to enhance his glory by bringing the Prince of Wales to India during his administration. Our Anglo-Indian contemporary has truly remarked that the miseries of the Indians due to poverty will be, with all possible care, concealed from His Royal Highness. His Royal Highness will come in contact with Princes and Nobles and everywhere his path will lie through merriments and festivities. The poverty of India will, consequently, remain unknown to him. As for the newspapers in England, we know how adroitly Indian matters are dealt with by them. Sir Walter Lawrence, who was the writer of the articles headed "Indian affairs" in the *Times* of London, is coming with the Prince of Wales as his aide-de-camp. It can well be surmised from this what sort of account of His Royal Highness's tour will find place in that newspaper. Our sorrows and distresses will neither reach His Royal Highness's ears nor find a place in the newspapers in England. Lord Curzon's purpose will thus be served.

104. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 6th May, in noticing a recent expression of opinion in the Anglo-Indian newspaper the *Bombay Gazette* to the effect that the projected visit of the Prince of Wales is calculated

The Prince of Wales's visit to India.

still further to impoverish India and as such will do nothing but harm, suggests that all this is mere pretence. The real reason why Anglo-Indians do not wish

PRATIJNA,
May 3rd, 1905.

SANJIVANI,
May 4th, 1905.

HITAVADI,
May 5th, 1905.

HITAVADI.

BASUMATI,
May 6th, 1905.

the Prince to visit India is that a knowledge at first-hand of the loyalty and reverence of the Indian public for his person might create in His Royal Highness's mind a desire to do good to India—good which will be inimical to the interests of the Anglo-Indians themselves.

HITAVARTA,
May 7th, 1905.

105. Referring to the order forbidding the native Rajas and *raises* from offering any present to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 7th May says that in the face of the above order the local Municipality has resolved to present twenty thousand rupees worth of jewellery. Who can then say that other Corporations are not making similar arrangements when independent bodies like the Calcutta Corporation are so anxious to offer presents? How can the puppets of Lord Curzon, viz., the native princes, sit down with their eyes shut over the matter? When at a hint from him they were made to pay money for the Victoria Memorial, the Delhi Darbar, and the Imperial Service Troops while a terrible famine was raging in the country, who can say that they will not be ready to pay for the reception of their Royal Highnesses?

HINDI BANGAVASI,
May 8th, 1905.

106. The speech delivered at the Royal Academy the other day by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, says the *Hindi Bangarasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May, shows His Highness's admiration for the fine arts of India. The same paper then asks if Royal His Highness will take the trouble during his visit to this country to see the condition of the present descendants of the artists who reared up those arts.

HINDI BANGAVASI.

107. The same paper asks the British Indian Association to say if it cannot manage to place before His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales the real condition of the people of this country.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 5th, 1905.

108. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May has the following:—
English supremacy was established in Bengal at the close of the eighteenth century. That meant the coming in contact of two different civilizations, the result of which was the appearance of a famine in the Province. Historians assign as one of the reasons for the famous famine of 1876 the looting to which the Province was subjected by the East India Company. In fact, in the year immediately following the one in which one-third of the population of Bengal died, the English officials did not hesitate to increase the land revenue of this country. So much for Bengal. As regards Oudh, a high English official named Captain Edwards who visited that Province in 1774 during the reign of Nawab Shuja-ud-dowla describes it as the abode of prosperity and industry. The English effected their entrance into that Province in 1775 after the death of the Nawab Shuja-ud-dowla. And the same Captain Edwards in 1783 reports Oudh as "Forlorn and desolate."

If we examine the brutal oppressions with which the establishment of English supremacy in India has been brought about, we can never call the eighteenth century English people civilized.

SANDHYA,
May 8th, 1905.

109. The following is contained in an extract, made by the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 8th May from Mr. J. Chaudhuri's speech in the recent meeting of the Provincial Conference held at Mymensingh:—

Government gets an enormous revenue but does not know how to spend it. Lord Curzon will spend 50 lakhs of rupees for the police, but expenses for the police mean waste of money. When you have to maintain your own countrymen there is no want of money, but when we suffer from water-scarcity there is no money forthcoming. What numbers of tanks were excavated by Rani Bhavani, and how many roads and *ghats* were constructed by the Muhammadans rulers too! The sins of the sovereign cause sufferings to the subject and generate plagues in the country. What have our rulers procured by their money?—the *gundas* of the police. Crime is much more prevalent in England than in our country. The low class people of England are brutes compared with the low class people of our country. The number of thieves and robbers in England is larger than that in our country by three or four crores. Why, then, spend so much money for the police here?

There is an abundance of rivers in our country and the lands here are fertilized by water supplied by Providence. In a country like Australia there is only one river, but they are excavating *khals* and *bils* at the cost of crores of rupees. And by constructing electric cars they are securing various conveniences at a small cost. In our country many rivers, *nullas*, etc., have silted up, but no one takes note of that. You are pocketing 17 crores and 65 lakhs of rupees from the railways, but does this money come from the heavens? It is our money which rolls to your pocket. All the high posts belong to white men. What becomes of the money which we pay as railway fare? Why not set free the silted-up rivers with the 1 crore and 65 lakhs of rupees which remain after paying off interest to English capitalists? Why not return to the people one crore out of the 4 crores and 10 lakhs of rupees which you get as land revenue?

The villages have no doctors in them. There is a Government grant of 21 lakhs of rupees on the head of "Medical expenditure." But how much of this money is for the poor? There is the dread of plague. But the plague expenses are not so much for us as for the convenience of your own commerce. There is a grant of only two thousand rupees for the prevention of epidemics in Bengal. Like the District Superintendent of Police, the Civil Surgeon has got his salary increased. He, however, sees private patients and graciously takes 16 rupees as his fee for each visit. Seven lakhs of rupees are spent for officers of his class. Two and-a-half lakhs of rupees are spent for the General Hospital in Calcutta, as if it is the palace of the Nawab of Murshidabad fitted with electric fans and lights. This is helping those who can do very well without help.

You give five grains of quinine for one pice and call it charity, but we do not know what charity has to do with a sale-and-purchase transaction. Then you give seven grains instead of five and say that you give us the profit also. Is this even charity? What do you give in exchange for the revenue you take? After much crying we have got an extra two grains of quinine! Two thousand rupees, it seems, will kill the epidemics and the malaria of Bengal. But last year you spent 17 lakhs of rupees for constructing buildings for the police! How luxurious have our rulers grown! They live in Simla. Like birds they fly to Simla, but return when paddy crops ripen in the plains. Emperor Shah Jehan used to take ordinary market bread and sleep on a coarse bedstead. Vikramaditya used to sleep on the ground and drink out of earthen pots. One who is great does not become so by wearing pearls and diamonds. A good ruler, who loves his subjects, does not require any show. He likes to live like his poor subjects. We expect from our English sovereign the same love for his subjects as was shown by Ram Chandra and Akbar to theirs.

110. The same paper of the 9th May has the following with reference to the recent gift of a marble fountain to the city of Calcutta by Lady Curzon:—

Lady Curzon's recent gift to Calcutta.

The thought of their daily bread is enough to occupy the minds of our countrymen to distraction—they cannot manage to make means to earn the handfuls necessary to feed their children; how such people can find time to feast their eyes on the beauties of a marble fountain we fail to understand. Formerly in the days when Anglicism was rampant in the country, village lads who came to Calcutta for their education, when they went back to their homes, used to take with them bodices, chemises and the like which they wished their old mothers and grandmothers to wear while engaged in cleaning the dishes, or washing the rooms or cooking the meals. This gift of Lady Curzon's is much of the same kind. Our countrymen, when they are turned out by the shoulders on their visit to the office of a European in search of employment, have gone to apply for service, will, on their way back home, have a good opportunity by having a look at this fountain, to realize how much the heart of the European is like a fountain of mercy. As is the god so is the goddess. The waters of this fountain, whether they soften the hearts of the natives or not, will, we are quite convinced, serve Lady Curzon's purpose.

SANDHYA,
May 9th, 1905.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
April 26th, 1905.

111. Referring to the grievances of the domiciled Bengalis of Orissa, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 26th April suggests that the rule regarding the age limit of candidates for the Provincial Executive Service in Bengal must not be strictly enforced in the case of domiciled Bengali graduates, most of whom have passed their 25th year.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

112. The Mayurbhanj correspondent of the same paper says that there were showers of rain in that State accompanied with hailstones.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.
April 27th, 1905.

113. The same correspondent says that cholera prevails in Mayurbhanj and that three men died of the fell disease. The Mayurbhanj correspondent of the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 27th April also makes a similar statement.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

114. The same correspondent says that the cruel practice of making devotees walk on fire, swing in face of the fire, and whirl round and round with nails thrust into their backs in the *Chaitra* festival still obtains in Mayurbhanj.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
April 27th, 1905.

115. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 27th April thanks the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj for his donation of Rs. 7,550 towards the erection of a Hindu Hostel in connection with the Ravenshaw College. This liberal donation is highly appreciated by all other native papers of Orissa.

GARJATBASINI,
April 29th, 1905.

The health of Anandapur in Keonjhar.

116. The Keonjhar correspondent of the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 29th April says that the general health of the Anandapur town in that State is good.

GARJATBASINI.

117. The Puri correspondent of the same paper says that the *Jagadis Samachar*, a monthly paper published in that town, was converted into a weekly on the 15th of the last month.

STAR OF UTKAL.
April 29th, 1905.

The public health of Puri and Cuttack.

118. The *Star of Utkal* [Cuttack] of the 29th April states that cholera and small-pox are raging in some parts of Puri and cholera in Cuttack.

STAR OF UTKAL.

119. The same paper advises the zamindars of Bengal to join the zamindars of Madras in opposing the Madras Land Estates Bill as, according to the writer, the Bill, if passed into law, would make the position of the zamindars unhappy and lower their status in the estimation of the public.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 29th, 1905.

120. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th April states that the general health of the Cuttack town is good and that the rigour of the summer is oftentimes softened by the cloudy weather. The Madhupur correspondent of the same paper makes a similar statement.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Two cases of death from thunder-stroke.

121. The same paper states that two men died of thunder-stroke in village Darutheng.

UTKALDIPIKA.

122. The Sankatras correspondent of the same paper says that a good shower of rain, accompanied by wind, fell in that place last week.

UTKALDIPIKA.

123. Referring to the case of Mr. Rolt, Manager of Khagra, a ward's estate, the same paper points out that the order passed by the Bengal Government on the recommendations of the Board of Revenue entitling Mr. Rolt to several months' pay without doing any work and transferring the extra expenditure thus incurred to the credit of the Khagra estate is extraordinary. In the opinion of the writer, Mr. Lea, the Magistrate and Collector of Purnea, who was the cause of Mr. Rolt's troubles, should have been required to bear the above expenditure.

ASSAM PAPERS.

124. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 30th April draws attention to the necessity of an Engineering College and an attached Technical College for the Province of

PARIDARSAK,
April 30th, 1905.

A suggestion.

Assam and suggests that the proposed institution should, on the model of the Cotton College at Gauhati, be associated with the name of Mr. Fuller and be located in the district of Sylhet.

125. The same paper publishes the following in English:—

PARIDARSAK.

Suggested educational reforms.

The scale of pay of the high school masters was revised in 1886 by Mr. J. Willson, M.A., the then Inspector of Schools, Assam. He graded the service of head-masters who were placed in four classes and were promoted from grade to grade. Dibrugarh, Gauhati and Sylhet schools were three of the largest and most successful schools in the Province and a comparatively larger staff was maintained for each of them, the different teachers in them drawing salaries at a higher rate. Thus the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th masters in these schools got Rs. 80, 60, 50, 40, 35, 30 and 25 respectively, whereas the same masters in other schools got Rs. 75 or 65 instead of Rs. 80, Rs. 50 instead of Rs. 60, Rs. 35 instead of Rs. 50, Rs. 25 instead of Rs. 40, and Rs. 20 instead of Rs. 35 or 30. The most efficient staff was maintained for these three first-class schools and this was the justification for allowing a higher scale of pay for their masters. Mr. Willson when he came out on inspection allowed a free interview to all masters who wished to see him, so he knew most of them and their qualifications. Thus he felt no difficulty in transferring a master from one school to another, though such transfers in his time were very few and far between, no master, as a rule, being transferred against his wishes. Dr. Booth succeeded Mr. Willson and he appeared to be vowed to undo or demolish many things done by his predecessor after long deliberation and years of Assam experience. The first thing that troubled his head was that it was unfair that one school should be fed at the loss of another. This was quickly followed by the idea that the staff of all State high schools should be of equal strength. Then naturally came the question of transfer of masters. But here he thought he was hindered by the difference in the scales of pay, so he got the Local Government to sanction a uniform scale of pay at least for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th masters of these schools, in some cases reducing the scale, in others increasing it. Thus 4th masters who used to get Rs. 35 were at once promoted to Rs. 45, 3rd masters getting Rs. 50 to 55, and 2nd masters getting Rs. 60 to 75, irrespective of their qualifications or merits. More efficient masters in the lower grades were taken no notice of. Then it occurred in the fertile brain of Dr. Booth that all these schools should have a fair number, if possible, an equal number, of graduate masters in their staff, and who would question the wisdom of such a step? Graduates good, bad as well as indifferent were taken, as vacancies arose, either as 5th or 6th masters on Rs. 35 or 30 in places where they could be had for the value and then put over the heads of a host of officers and promoted to 4th or 3rd masterships before many of them had actually passed their probationary period. Thus non-graduate masters, many of them able and possessing long experience, were cast overboard and allowed to be superseded on more than one occasion by their juniors of little experience. But the beauty of the whole thing lies in the following:—There were non-graduates at the top, non-graduate second masters and head-masters, and they were of course promoted to make room for these young aspirants, so there was one rule for promotion of second masters and head-masters and another for the promotion of those who were below their ranks. Such anomaly in the matter of appointments, transfers and promotion had caused great discontent among the rank and file of the high school masters, but they raised no voice of murmur, believing that when the new educational scheme will be sanctioned their hard lot may receive some consideration from the Government, for in the inspecting staff there was no lack of undergraduates. But though many of them are more capable than some of the Sub-Inspectors already promoted to

the Deputy Inspectorships, and though some of them would be very glad to have a transfer to the inspecting staff, their best hopes have not been realized and thus they have been doubly disappointed. The pay and prospects of the clerks in Government service have lately been improved. The new grant-in-aid rules have improved the condition of the village pandits, for in the opinion of the Government these officers are hard-worked but low-paid. But do not the masters of high schools in this Province envy the lot of clerks in Government offices, where prospects are much better and promotion much more rapid? We implore the paternal Government to improve the status of these officers generally, considering that they have to perform a thankless task for which neither the public nor the Government cares to give them any credit.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 13th May 1905.

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 19 of 1905

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 13th May 1905.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

624. With the murder of the Chinese Amban and his party, writes the

The new situation in Tibet.

Bengalee, the Tibetan problem may be said to have entered upon an entirely new phase. The situation is still further complicated by the report that four French missionaries were among the party. Accepting this report as correct, the action that the French Government may be disposed to take is awaited with the utmost interest. It is possible that France may ask Great Britain to obtain satisfaction for her, and should the latter consent to comply with this demand, how are the terms to be enforced on the Tibetans? If they are not amenable to reason, will a punitive expedition masquerading under another name be despatched? Events that have just passed show that this is not very likely, and France, on the other hand, cannot act independently. Russia would indeed have been a trump card for France to play at this crisis, but she has gone completely out of the deal. With regard to China, however, it is different, and her relations with Tibet would justify her taking independent action, but what would be the attitude of the British Government should such a contingency arise?

625. *Power and Guardian* writes that the murder of the Chinese Amban and his entire escort, among whom it has been

Ibid.

ascertained there were some French missionaries, creates a most difficult and intricate situation. In view of the existing treaty between the British Government and Tibet, it would hardly be possible for China to take independent action in the matter, while, on the other hand, she is not likely to leave the affair to be settled by the Government of India, as she would thus be acquiescing in the sovereign right of the British Government. Then, again, the murder of the French missionaries is likely to give rise to still further complications, as France will experience the same difficulty in dealing with the offenders as China.

BENGALIE,
4th May 1905.

POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
7th May 1905.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

626. The *Bengalee* writes that the Hon'ble Mr. Mukerji was appointed as

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Mukerji.

an additional Judge of the High Court for a period of one year in May last, and as his term of office will shortly expire, the journal believes that it expresses the unanimous wish of the people when it urges his confirmation in the appointment which he has held with marked ability.

627. Referring to the discourteous way in which Mr. A. C. Bannerjee, a

Maulvi Buzlul Karim, third
Presidency Magistrate.

respectable Barrister, was treated by Maulvi Buzlul Karim, third Presidency Magistrate, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that this officer has by his boorish conduct, even towards those who occupy high positions in society, rendered himself deservedly and universally unpopular. The journal reminds this wayward Magistrate that he is a "Native," and if a hue and cry were raised against him by his own countrymen, the Government would be only too glad to get rid of him and appoint a European or Eurasian in his place.

628. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the moral which all "Native"

The military assault case.

tram conductors should learn from the judgment of "Joint-Magistrate Goose" in the Ronayne case, is that they should not serve the Tramway Company. If they cannot help earning a living in that way, then the next best thing for them to do is not to ask Europeans for their fares, or if they do and are assaulted they must not take any notice of it. A great future awaits Mr. Swan, c.s. There is no doubt that he possesses an original turn of mind, for it is only an original mind that can decide judicially that the man who inflicts the first blow should go unpunished, and his victim, who is assaulted for having done his duty, should be sent to jail with hard labour!

BENGALIE,
29th April 1905.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th May 1905.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th May 1905.

INDIAN EMPIRE.
9th May 1905.

629. It is needless to say, writes the *Indian Empire*, that the decision in the assault case in which Captain Ronayne, R.A.M.C., was concerned, has not given the public satisfaction. Admitting that the Captain's story is true and that the conductor actually gave him a "fearful blow" (no marks, however, could be shown), was not the assault a thoroughly justifiable one, considering that the conductor was previously struck by the complainant merely because he asked him for his fare? Even the trying Magistrate admits it, but finds fault with the accused for not having dealt the blow a little earlier. The accused, however, entirely denies having assaulted the Captain, and there is no reliable contradictory evidence. The journal is glad that the accused has been released on bail by the Sessions Judge.

(d)—Education.

BENGALIEE,
29th April 1905.

630. The *Bengalee* writes that the appointment on two successive occasions of junior officers to officiate as Director of Public Instruction has given rise to the belief that a member of the Covenanted Civil Service will succeed Mr. Pedler. The fact that the senior men in the service are being studiously overlooked, obviously with a view to depriving them of any claim that the acting appointment may give them, directly points to such a contingency. The journal, however, earnestly hopes that this is not to be the case, as the Education Department will not thrive with a Civilian at its head, because the salary is not likely to attract to it a meritorious officer who has any chance of making his mark either in the Executive or Judicial line. Besides, such an arrangement cannot fail to cause serious discontent and to debar a superior class of men from entering the service. The *Bengalee* accordingly hopes that, in the interests of education, Government will think before they act.

INDIAN MIRROR,
30th April 1905.

631. If the educational policy of Government, which is to impart a system of training suitable to every station in life, is not to be frustrated, writes the *Indian Mirror*, it goes without saying that 'official procedure' should be treated as a separate branch of study altogether and not be summed up in the two subjects *précis*-writing and letter-drafting, which will form part of commercial correspondence. Official *précis*-writing and letter-drafting are of a very high order and quite distinctive in character and require special qualifications in the teacher which it were vain to expect in a commercial expert. One who is acquainted with the internal working of Government offices can well understand that no reasonable term of probation could possibly produce efficiency, and this fact, coupled with a natural disinclination of officers to get rid of a probationer, except in very bad cases, is calculated to foist upon Government a class of mediocres. On this account, therefore, official procedure should be made a subject for special training, both for the benefit of Government and its prospective employés.

NEW INDIA,
6th May 1905.

632. *New India* writes that the way in which the Hon'ble Mr. Fuller is filling up appointments in the Assam Education Department is not calculated to improve the efficiency of the service. Sir Henry Cotton formulated a liberal scheme for strengthening the inspecting staff and his proposals were (1) that an Inspector of Schools should be appointed for each of the two valleys comprising the plains area of the province, and that these appointments should be given to graduates who had taken honours either in English or mathematics; (2) that the number of Deputy Inspectors should be increased, only graduates being appointed; and (3) that the number of Sub-Inspectors should be doubled, their pay being substantially increased. Thus, while Sir Henry regarded University degrees as a *sine qua non*, Mr. Fuller does not insist on them, but, on the contrary, seems to think that administrative ability and University education are inversely proportional to one another, otherwise there is no accounting for the appointment of Maulvi Iachim Ali and Wachil Ali over the heads of such men as Babu Bidhu Bhusan Mazumdar and others. This principle of nomination may work well in the Executive Service, where subordination and a capacity to carry out orders are the only qualifications required, but in the Education Department, educational qualifications are absolutely necessary, otherwise the efficiency of the service must suffer.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

633. What a rare blessing it is to be a member of the Indian Civil Service

Sir A. Fraser's latest performance.

is writes the *Bengalee*, illustrated by Mr. C. F. Payne's appointment as Officiating Chairman of the Corporation, Mr. Payne came out to this country in the autumn of 1898, and his connection with the Corporation dates from December last, but nevertheless he has been selected to fill a most responsible and difficult office. One can imagine Sir Andrew, "that most conscientious of men," pursing up his lips on being asked to appoint a Barrister of similar experience to an important judicial office! But it must not be forgotten that Mr. Payne is a Civilian and that His Honour is another, which makes all the difference in the world. Truly, how our self-interested Civilian rulers have abandoned themselves to the practice of self-deception. As for the "Native" Vice-Chairman, whose knowledge of municipal affairs is undisputed, his selection was of course impossible, for he is not only a Babu but also holds office as the elected servant of the Corporation and not as a nominee of Government. What with boy-Judges, boy-Collectors, and boy-Chairmen of the Corporation and a Lieutenant Governor who thinks them all perfection and will not have them "attacked" by the "Native" Press, the Administration is going to the dogs!

BENGALÉE,
30th April 1905.

634. The *Hindoo Patriot* sees nothing wrong in the appointment of

Ibid.

Mr. Payne as Officiating Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, as he will during the short absence of Mr. Greer in Darjeeling, transact only the urgent and routine business, the latter dealing with anything of importance that arises. Here, again, Sir Andrew Fraser's action has been misconstrued and unreasonably criticised.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
1st May 1905.

635. *Power and Guardian* writes that the appointment of Mr. Payne as

Ibid.

Officiating Chairman is questionable on the ground that he does not possess the necessary experience. A tried officer of Mr. Allen's stamp should have been selected to fill this office, and if none were forthcoming, the Vice-Chairman, who is a man of undoubted experience, should have been allowed to preside over the affairs of the Corporation. Had Sir A. Fraser referred to previous arrangements, he would not have appointed so junior and inexperienced an officer as Mr. Payne.

POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
7th May 1905.

636. The *Indian Empire* writes that Sir Andrew Fraser has seriously

Ibid.

risked his reputation by appointing Mr. Payne, "a beardless youth," to a responsible and onerous office like the Chairmanship of the Corporation. It is true that the Vice-Chairman, who is an experienced official, has on two previous occasions officiated and satisfactorily discharged the duties of that high office, but what of that? "Is he not a Babu, a *kala admi*," and therefore much inferior to the white Civilian? How could Sir Andrew, a pious and devout Christian, determined to carry on the work of administration justly and impartially, neglect to uphold the interests of the Civilians?

INDIAN EMPIRE,
9th May 1905.

637. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Bhagalpur correspondent writes that

Plague in Bhagalpur.

plague continues to claim its victims daily, the only quieting feature being that the mortality is not so high as in some of the other Bihar districts and shows no tendency to rise. By erecting sheds along the Ganges shore containing fuel, etc., for facilitating the burning of corpses, the authorities have removed a long-felt want, and the writer earnestly hopes that the arrangement will be a permanent one.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th May 1905.

638. *New India* writes that the past experience of the rate-payers

The proposed Borough system for Calcutta.

prevents them from hoping that the proposed Borough system of municipal administration will improve matters much, for when the last Municipal Act was passed, great and far-reaching reforms were promised, but have never been realized. The present irresponsibility, inefficiency and dishonesty on the part of the Executive and the highly insanitary condition of several wards are all that have resulted from the change. If, however, the Borough system is well organised and faithfully worked, there is no reason why it should not prove a boon. In the first place, a substantial measure of autonomy should be secured to the Borough Councils. Is the Government honestly willing to grant it, and will the executive be absolutely subject to the Borough Councils?

NEW INDIA,
6th May 1905.

(h)—General.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
1st May 1905.

639. To a careful reader of the Carlyle Circular, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, it will at once become apparent that the tendency of this mischievous document is to augment the authority of Commissioners, to reform such Magistrates as create social scandals, and to subordinate the Judicial to the Executive. Were it not for this last and most important consideration, the public would have very little interest in a circular whose main object is not to benefit the general public, but to hush up social scandals which bring discredit on the members of the Civil Service and jeopardise the Government.

Special attention has been drawn to "the pernicious habit which some officers have of constantly borrowing carriages, horses, etc., from wealthy Indians." This habit, the *Patrika* points out, is not confined to Magistrates only, but also to Commissioners. Even the Lieutenant-Governor and the Viceroy sometimes indulge in it, to the great discomfort and loss of the Indian gentry.

The journal repeats that, so far as the people are concerned, this circular is of no use, for it does not empower Commissioners to interfere in cases of Magisterial oppression and vindictiveness which are the *bête noir* of their existence.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd May 1905.

640. Reverting to this subject, the same journal writes that the first portion of the circular reads a moral lesson to giddy young Magistrates, and gives Commissioners entire power to control them "socially"; but what is it to the people whether the former lead vicious or virtuous lives? Their morality is of no consequence so long as their administration is good, yet the circular makes no attempt to improve their administration. When Mr. Carey, for instance, set the whole machinery of Government in motion against that poor clerk Bibhuti Sekhar, the Commissioner was powerless to stay his hand, but had Mr. Carey misconducted himself as grossly "socially," he would have been cut short. Similarly, Mr. Walsh, the Commissioner of Burdwan, was quite unable to clinch the illegal proceedings instituted by Mr. Shout, a Deputy Magistrate, against his tailor. Truly, it is an unspeakably absurd arrangement that debars the heads of Divisions from interfering when law, procedure, and justice are trampled under foot by these Subordinate Magistrates. In these circumstances therefore, the people are thoroughly disappointed in the circular, for it affords them no protection.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th May 1905.

641. In a subsequent issue, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that in spite of Lord Curzon's assurance that he would separate the Judicial and Executive functions, the Bengal Government have succeeded in cementing them more completely than before, by vesting Divisional Commissioners with powers, admittedly outside law or rule, which are calculated to furnish them with levers powerful enough to move judicial officers of all grades, from a High Court Judge downwards. That the High Court should have accepted for itself, and for all judicial officers subject to it, a position of subordination to Commissioners—a position analogous to that which Deputy Magistrates occupy towards District Magistrates—is a matter of the greatest wonder, and the journal has no doubt that the Hon'ble Judges could not discern the dangerous elements in the circular when they supported the views of the Government.

BENGAL,
2nd May 1905.

642. The *Bengales* writes that in paragraph 3 of this circular, cases are cited where the Commissioner may usefully exercise his authority, and among them are instances of "disregard of the interests of other departments." Now, if a Judge in the exercise of his judicial functions arrives at a decision adverse to the interests of any particular department, is that to be made a matter of grievance against him and is the Commissioner to interfere in the interests of the particular department? Nothing is more common than for District Judges to sit in judgment on the police and find fault with their proceedings. A too susceptible District Superintendent of Police may move the Commissioner against any unfavourable observations that may be made, and if the latter agreed with him and interfered in the interests of his department, what would become of the independence of the

Judicial Bench? Thus, it is clear that this circular cannot fail to be harmful. Judges are men first and Judges afterwards, and hence they cannot be expected to quarrel with their bread and butter. They will thus unconsciously adapt their judgments to the new circular and so safeguard their own interests. Justice will henceforward be impossible where the "interests of other departments" are concerned, and Judges will have to remember that they are the servants of Government first and of the public afterwards. There will thus be a reversal of those principles which have hitherto governed the judicial system of the country. Cannot the High Court even now withdraw the support they have accorded to this indefensible circular?

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

643. The *Bengalee* complains that the Thakur Saheb of Palitana is pursuing a course which cannot fail to seriously exasperate the Jain community throughout India.

The Chief of Palitana and the Jain community.

The local Jains have their sacred temples on the Shatrunjy Hill, and in accordance with the religious custom that has prevailed since the foundation of the temples, visitors are required to take off their shoes and put on canvas ones before entering. But the Thakur Saheb expressly exempts his guests who visit the temples from following this practice. The journal warns the Chief of Palitana that he is pursuing a singularly ill-advised course which not only deserves the condemnation of all right-thinking men, but is also likely to bring down upon his head the censure of Government.

BENGALIEE,
4th May 1905.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

644. The *Behar News* relates the following anecdote regarding the Liberal party. When Pitt was having an argument with

Courage and straightforwardness.

some of his friends as to what were the qualities most needed in politics, that great statesman decided in favour of patience. But they had practiced this virtue in vain for 20 years, and Mr. Morley urged them to give it up and try courage and straightforwardness. Similarly, Indians have been patient not for 20 years but for centuries, and they should now let the other qualities guide them in the future.

BEHAR NEWS,
26th April 1905.

645. An irresponsible Government, writes the *Bengalee*, is never at a loss

Increased military expenditure.

to find some plea which would appear to justify the expenditure of vast sums of money, and hence the Russian bogey has been trotted out as an excuse for increasing the military expenditure which, on the contrary, might very well be reduced, to the great relief of the Indian tax-payer. Never were the chances of a successful Russian invasion more remote than at the present moment, when both her forces and finances are seriously crippled, but nevertheless the Government of India appears to be intent on carrying out this project, which has elicited the strongest disapproval of the country. The Indians are as much interested in the security of their country as their rulers, but nevertheless they object to their money being spent on objects which would place the Government under the strong temptation of carrying on a policy of repression at home and aggression abroad.

BENGALIEE,
30th April 1905.

646. While the Radicals, writes the *Bengalee*, are protesting against the decision to maintain the Reserve of the British

Ibid.

army on a war footing, the Government are insisting that there is no knowing what may not happen on the Indian frontier, and hence it is absolutely necessary to be in a state of preparedness to meet sudden emergencies. The journal, however, repeats that the Indian frontier

BENGALIEE,
2nd May 1905.

never afforded less ground for anxiety than at the present moment. The fact is a fat surplus is a dangerous thing, for it tempts those who have the spending of it to waste money on useless projects.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd May 1905.

647. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that although meetings are being held by local bodies to consider what steps should

The Royal visit to India.

be taken to offer a suitable reception to Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, the feeling is widespread that the time chosen for the visit is not opportune. Famine and plague are decimating the country, and the recent earthquake has quite unnerved the people and extinguished their enthusiasm. Then, again, a Royal visit is a disastrous thing for India, where the general notion is entertained both by the authorities and the people that unless there is a great display of pomp and show, there is no true loyalty. Thus a great deal of money has to be wasted by a people who can ill-afford it. The journal, however, suggests that as money is going to be spent, the visit of the Prince and Princess should be commemorated in a useful and practical way.

INDIAN MIRROR,
2nd May 1905.

648. Referring to the bitter criticisms of the *Bombay Gazette* on the Royal visit, the *Indian Mirror* writes that although

Ibid.

the time for such a visit has been ill-chosen, Indians consider it so great a privilege to welcome any member of the Royal Family that they would, in spite of their extreme poverty, give them a fitting reception. Their loyalty and attachment to the present Monarchy is unshakable, and they have even asked that a member of the Royal Family, preferably the Duke of Connaught, who was so popular as Commander-in-Chief, should be sent out as Viceroy of India. Thus there is no doubt that a loyal and hearty reception awaits Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, from the Indians at any rate.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th May 1905.

649. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the Calcutta correspondent of the *London Daily News* has done India a signal

Indian affairs and the *London Daily News*.

service by letting the Liberals know that the appointment of Sir Henry Fowler as Secretary of State would be regarded with dismay by the people. The journal hopes that this fair-minded and able correspondent will still further enhance his usefulness to a down-trodden people and country by freely criticising police rule and the pernicious system of administration which makes magisterial oppression possible.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th May 1905.

650. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that all classes should read with care and profit the letters of its Canadian correspondents denouncing British rule and offering

Indian affairs in Canada.

valuable suggestions for the regeneration of India. Who can dispute the fact that it is to systematic economic drain, excessive taxation, and the destruction of her industries, that India owes her phenomenal poverty, which is the primary cause of her famines? With a view to exposing the abject condition to which their country has been reduced under British rule, it is suggested that Indian delegates should be sent to foreign countries to proclaim how Anglo-Indian administrators have by a policy of absolute repression reduced India to a state of poverty the like of which prevails nowhere in the world. If the Canadian, Australian, and American papers notice and comment upon these facts, the English public would be roused to a sense of duty towards India and by this means her salvation would be secured.

BENGALURU,
4th May 1905.

651. Out of evil good cometh, writes the *Bengalee*, and the signs of vigorous public life which are visible on all sides

Public life in India.

bear testimony to the reactionary policy of Lord Curzon. In the presence of the new and common danger, the people have forgotten their petty differences and stand shoulder to shoulder in defence of liberty and right. This is not only evidenced by the numerous conferences that have recently been held all over India, but by the prominent part the raiyat played at the Mymensingh Conference, where he intelligently and earnestly recounted his many grievances. The lessons of the Congress have filtered down to the masses and it is no longer a microscopic minority who urge their political rights but the great body of the Indian people.

652. The *Indian Mirror* regards the rumoured purchase of the Calcutta Town Hall by the State as thoroughly ill-advised and says that if the purchase is actually concluded, the public will be driven to the conclusion that, as the Town Hall has been the scene of public meetings of all kinds, including protest meetings against Viceregal utterances, the authorities are buying it in order to close it to such gatherings in future. The journal urges the people to strongly protest against the rumoured project, if there is any truth in the report.

INDIAN MIRROR,
5th May 1905.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL.
OF POLICE, L. P.

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 29th April 1905.

F. C. DALY,

Asst. to the Insp.-Genl. of Police, L. P.

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